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432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
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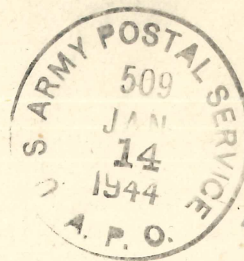
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January 12, 1944

Hiya, Folks,

Here it is - sorta late, but I'm going to write what I can get in and will mail it anyhow.

Been taking another trip of sorts, this past couple or three days. Had to go to Africa to attend to some squadron business, so it served as a break in the regular routine. - We didn't get to leave until late afternoon - so by the time we got there, put our plane to bed, and obtained quarters for ourselves, it was dark. - That night we ate and went to a movie - Saw "Holiday Inn" again. - Yesterday we worked getting supplies - and again ate and saw Walt Disney's "Dumbo"! - Early this morning we took off in the rain, flew to another base - got some parts - and came on back here. You couldn't exactly call it a vacation, but it was a change, and maybe that's what I needed - only more of it. I seem to be getting an awful case of combat fatigue, or something.

The quarters we had in Africa were some

obtained thru the Army, - but in a private home. - It was pretty nice - beds, sheets, and not quite enough blankets! - There is no heat to be had and everything is just cold and damp. Didn't get to speak to the people much. - but it is just as well. - Me and my mixture of Spanish, Italian, & French, seemed to be chief interpreter! - I really do a batch up job of that. - Left alone over here in Sardinia I can get along fairly well, - but when I get where they speak French or ~~Spanish~~ - I get mixed up ~~+~~ using Si for Oui and visa versa. Oh, it's a great language I speak! - I'll be doing good to hold my own in English pretty soon!

The movie, "Dumbo" was really good. - Have you ever seen it? - If not - it would stand bearing up under, even if it is now current at one of the 9th St. joints.

We were pretty lucky on our eats. - Ate at the transient officer's mess and had a dinner fit for a king. - No foolin - we had a huge turkey dinner with all the trimmings, even down to bread pudding and ice cream for dessert! - I'm going to wait a week before I pick my teeth - then maybe I can get a few more morsels!

Well, its just about that time. Time enough to address an envelope and fix my "sack" so I can climb in. - It sure will feel good to get into my own sack for a change.

If I don't take off on the mission - or rather if the mission is cancelled tomorrow, I'll add some more to this. - If it goes thru, tho, I'll just mail this as is so you will be hearing this much from me for tonight. Wont even read this over so 'scuse all errors & things.

Bye & Lots of Love,
Frank